Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELEM 00097 102022Z ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 PER-05 /021 W

-----077981 110525Z/15

R 101850Z AUG 77 FM AMCONSUL BELEM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0650 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RECIFE

UNCLAS BELEM 0097

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CGEN, OCON, APER, BR

SUBJECT: MONTEVIDEO CONSULAR CONFERENCE -- ATTENDANCE BY CONSUL BELEM

REFS: (A) STATE 165068, 181927 (B) STATE 180411

- 1. EMBASSY BRASILIA AND CONSULATE BELEM BELIEVE THAT THE NEW CONSUL, JOSEPH F. BECELIA, SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ATTENDING THE MONTEVIDEO CONSULAR CONFERENCE, EVEN IF IT MEANS ADVANCING HIS ETA IN BRAZIL.
- 2. ALTHOUGH CONSULATE BELEM IS NOT A FULL-SERVICE POST, THE CONSUL MUST PROVIDE PROTECTIVE ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL TO A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF PROBLEMS. THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS

RESIDENT IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT PROBABLY HAS REACHED 7,000. IN RECENT YEARS AMERICAN TOURISM IN THE AMAZON REGION HAS BOOMED. THE DISTRICT IS NOW SERVED BY EIGHT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, FOUR OF THEM TO THE U.S. BRANIFF MAY ADD A FLIGHT TO THE U.S. LATER THIS YEAR. (IN BRAZIL, ONLY THE RIO DE JANEIRO AND SAO PAULO CONSULAR DISTRICT HAVE MORE FLIGHTS TO THE UNITED STATES.) AS A RESULT, CONSULAR WORK, AND PARTICULARLY PROTECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, IS BECOMING THE CENTRAL FUNCTION OF THE CONSUL IN BELEM.

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3. IN THE POST'S OPINION, THE CONSULAR CONFERENCE WILL BE OF VALUE TO THE NEW CONSUL NOT ONLY BY INFORMING HIM OF THE LATEST REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES, BUT ALSO, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, BY BRINGING HIM FULLY ABREAST OF CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH THINKING ON THE USG'S RESPONSABILITIES FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD. THESE RESPONSABILITIES IN THE AMAZON REGION ARE SIGNIFICANT

AND GROWING, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE ISOLATION OF THIS REGION, THE INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICANS RESIDING IN OR VISITING THE AMAZON, AND THE NATURE OF THE BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL PRESENCE HERE. COURTNEY

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TAGS: CGEN, OCON, APER, BR

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